

100TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1209

To amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide improved access to ambulatory mental health services for individuals enrolled in the program of supplementary medical insurance benefits established under such part, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15 (legislative day, MAY 13), 1987

Mr. DURENBERGER (for himself, Mr. INOUYE, and Mr. BURDICK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide improved access to ambulatory mental health services for individuals enrolled in the program of supplementary medical insurance benefits established under such part, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 The Act may be cited as the “Medicare Ambulatory
5 Mental Health Services Access Act of 1987”.

1 SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF LIMITATION ON EXPENSES FOR
2 AMBULATORY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective for the twenty-four month
4 period beginning with the first day of the first calendar year
5 to begin more than 60 days after the date of the enactment of
6 this Act, section 1833(c) of the Social Security Act (42
7 U.S.C. 1395l(c)) is amended to read as follows:

8 “(c)(1)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
9 part, with respect to expenses incurred by an individual in
10 any calendar year for services described in subparagraph (B),
11 the total amount that may be considered as incurred ex-
12 penses, for purposes of subsections (a) and (b), is the smaller
13 of—

14 “(i) the reasonable charges for services furnished
15 during 30 visits in such year, or
16 “(ii) \$2,700.00.

17 “(B) The services described in this subparagraph are—
18 “(i) extensive individual psychotherapy (45 min-
19 utes or more per visit),
20 “(ii) family psychotherapy,
21 “(iii) multifamily group psychotherapy,
22 “(iv) group psychotherapy, and
23 “(v) hypnotherapy,
24 (as defined by the Secretary) that are furnished on an outpa-
25 tient basis.

1 "(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part,
2 with respect to services described in paragraph (1)(B) that
3 are furnished during visits in a calendar year, the amount
4 payable with respect to such services shall be equal to—

5 "(A) 80 percent of the reasonable charges for
6 services furnished during visits 1 through 5 in such
7 year,

8 "(B) 50 percent of the reasonable charges for
9 services furnished during visits 6 through 20 in such
10 year, and

11 "(C) 20 percent of the reasonable charges for
12 visits 21 through 30 in such year.".

13 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsec-
14 tion (a) shall apply to expenses incurred in the twenty-four-
15 month period for which such amendment is effective.

16 SEC. 3. STUDY.

17 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Health and
18 Human Services (in this section referred to as the "Secre-
19 tary"), in consultation with the Director of the National In-
20 stitute of Mental Health, shall conduct a study of the effects
21 of the amendment made by section 2 of the Medicare Ambu-
22 latory Mental Health Services Access Act of 1987 on the
23 cost, utilization, and quality of mental health services fur-
24 nished to individuals entitled to benefits under title XVIII of
25 the Social Security Act.

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1 (b) REPORTS.—

2 (1) Not later than six months after the date of the
3 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
4 the Congress a preliminary report with respect to the
5 study required by subsection (a). The report shall de-
6 scribe the manner in which the study is being conduct-
7 ed and may include tentative findings and recommen-
8 dations based upon the study.9 (2) The preliminary report required by paragraph
10 (1) shall be updated at least every six months.11 (3) Not later than 180 days after the date on
12 which the amendment made by section 2 of the Medi-
13 care Ambulatory Mental Health Services Access Act of
14 1987 ceases to be effective, the Secretary shall submit
15 to the Congress a final report with respect to the study
16 required by subsection (a). The report shall include
17 findings and recommendations based upon the study.

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